

MARVEL

3

PHILLIPS
VILANOVA
GRUNDETJERN

COSMIC GHOST RIDER

VS. VALKYRIE



2022
MOI

FRANK CASTLE HAS BEEN TO HELL AND BACK! HE WAS ONCE THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS THE PUNISHER UNTIL HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION AS A SUPERNATURALLY EMPOWERED SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. SINCE THEN, HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS A HERALD OF GALACTUS, THE RIGHT-HAND OF THANOS AND A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY. AFTER LEAVING HIS MARK ACROSS ALL OF TIME AND SPACE, THE UNIVERSE HAS COME TO KNOW FRANK CASTLE AS...

COSMIC GHOST RIDER

“DUEL IDENTITY”
part three

FRANK CASTLE HAS BEEN LIVING OFF THE GRID ON AN ALIEN WORLD, HIS DAYS AS COSMIC GHOST RIDER FINALLY BEHIND HIM. FRANK WAS WORKING AT A TAVERN RUN BY MARLOW AND HIS DAUGHTER, AXELLE. BUT THIS FRAGILE PEACE WAS VIOLENTLY INTERRUPTED BY A BOUNTY HUNTER WHO KILLED MARLOW BEFORE BEING DEFEATED.

THE SHI'AR EMPIRE ALSO HIRED THEIR OWN BOUNTY HUNTER, MONARK STARSTALKER, TO APPREHEND COSMIC GHOST RIDER. WHEN STARSTALKER ATTACKED, FRANK WAS FORCED TO TRANSFORM INTO COSMIC GHOST RIDER ONCE MORE.

FRANK HAS ALSO BEEN HAVING VIOLENT DREAMS...WHICH ARE ACTUALLY VISIONS OF AN ALL-TOO-REAL SECOND COSMIC GHOST RIDER CURRENTLY SPREADING CHAOS AND VIOLENCE ACROSS THE GALAXY! AFTER HIS LATEST MASSACRE, THIS SECOND GHOST RIDER WAS CONFRONTED BY THE ASGARDIAN VALKYRIE.

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FUELING STATION X987.

VALHALLA
WON'T TAKE
YOU THIS TIME,
RIDER!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE,
VALKYRIÉ.

BLAM





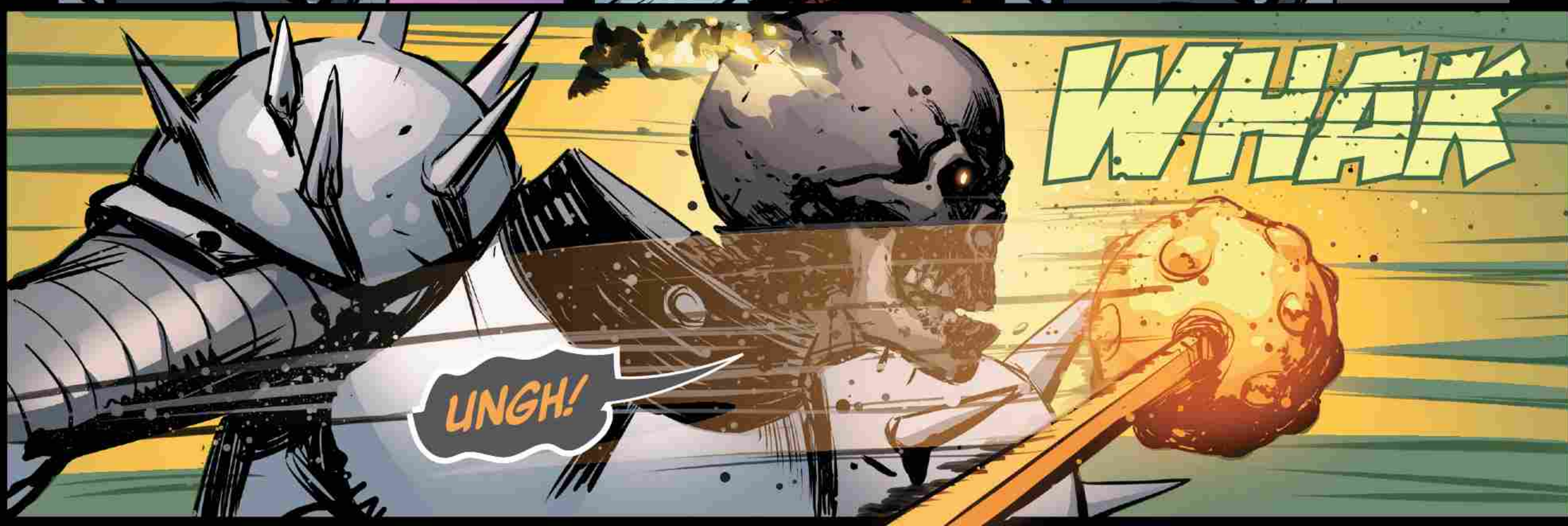
YOU'VE
LEFT A TRAIL
OF DEAD BODIES
IN NEARLY EVERY
SECTOR OF
THE GALAXY,
RIDER...

WHUMP

...I
THINK I'M
EXACTLY
WHERE I
SHOULD
BE.

HUH?

NEARLY
EVERY
SECTOR...?

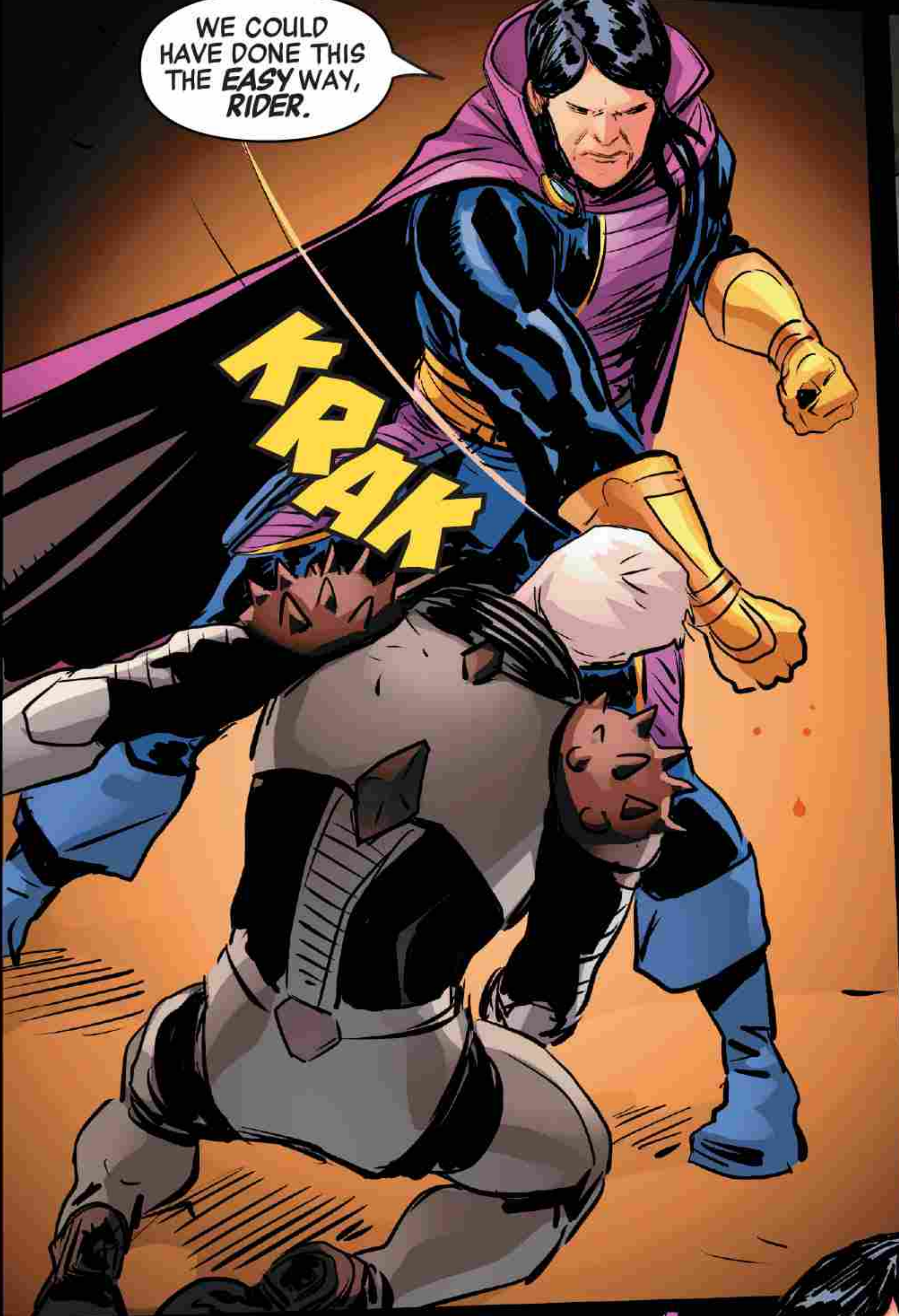




THE "OTHER" FRANK.

WHAK

UNGH!



WE COULD HAVE DONE THIS THE *EASY* WAY, RIDER.

KRAK

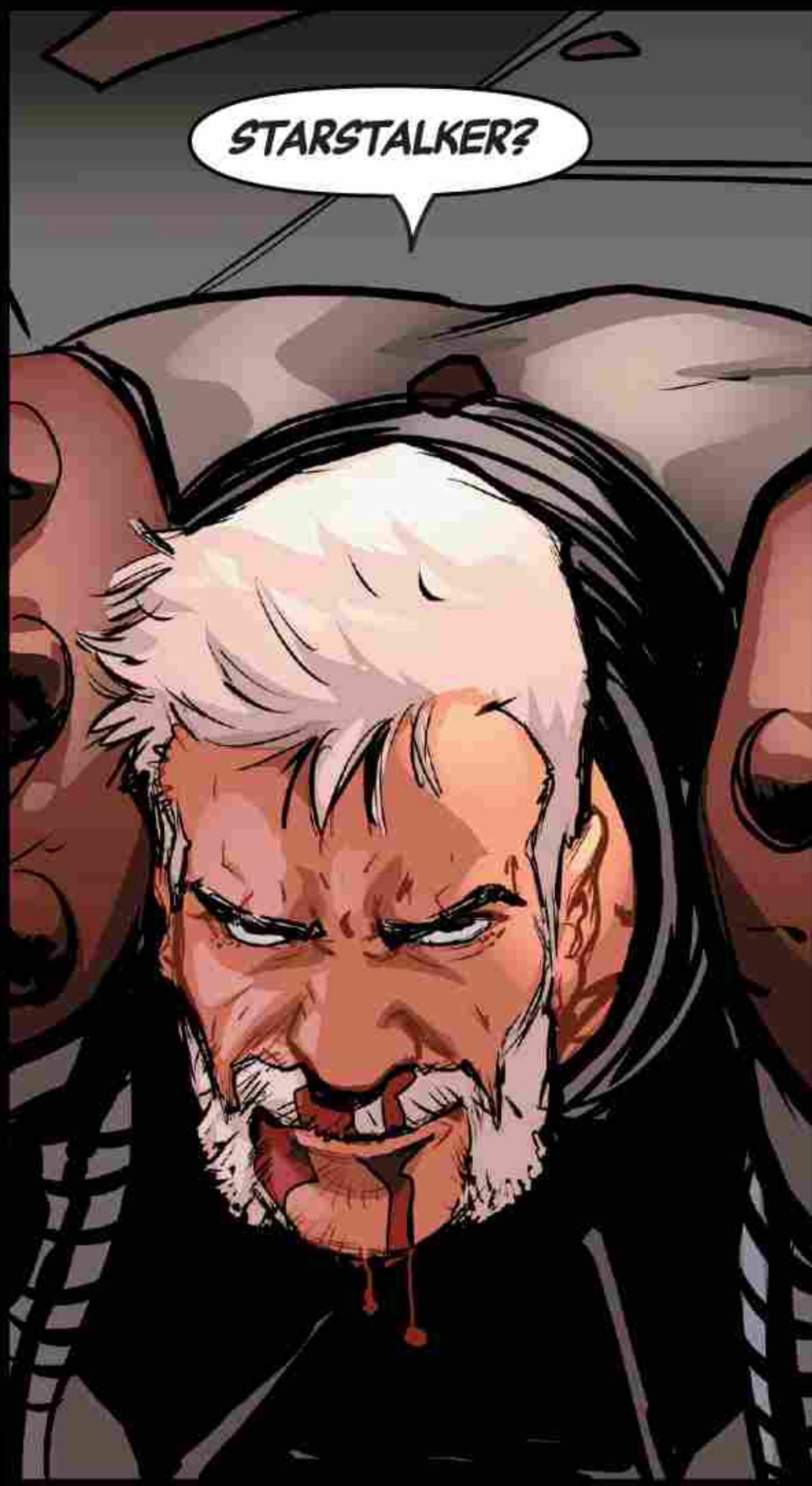


WHO...
=KOFF=...ARE YOU...?

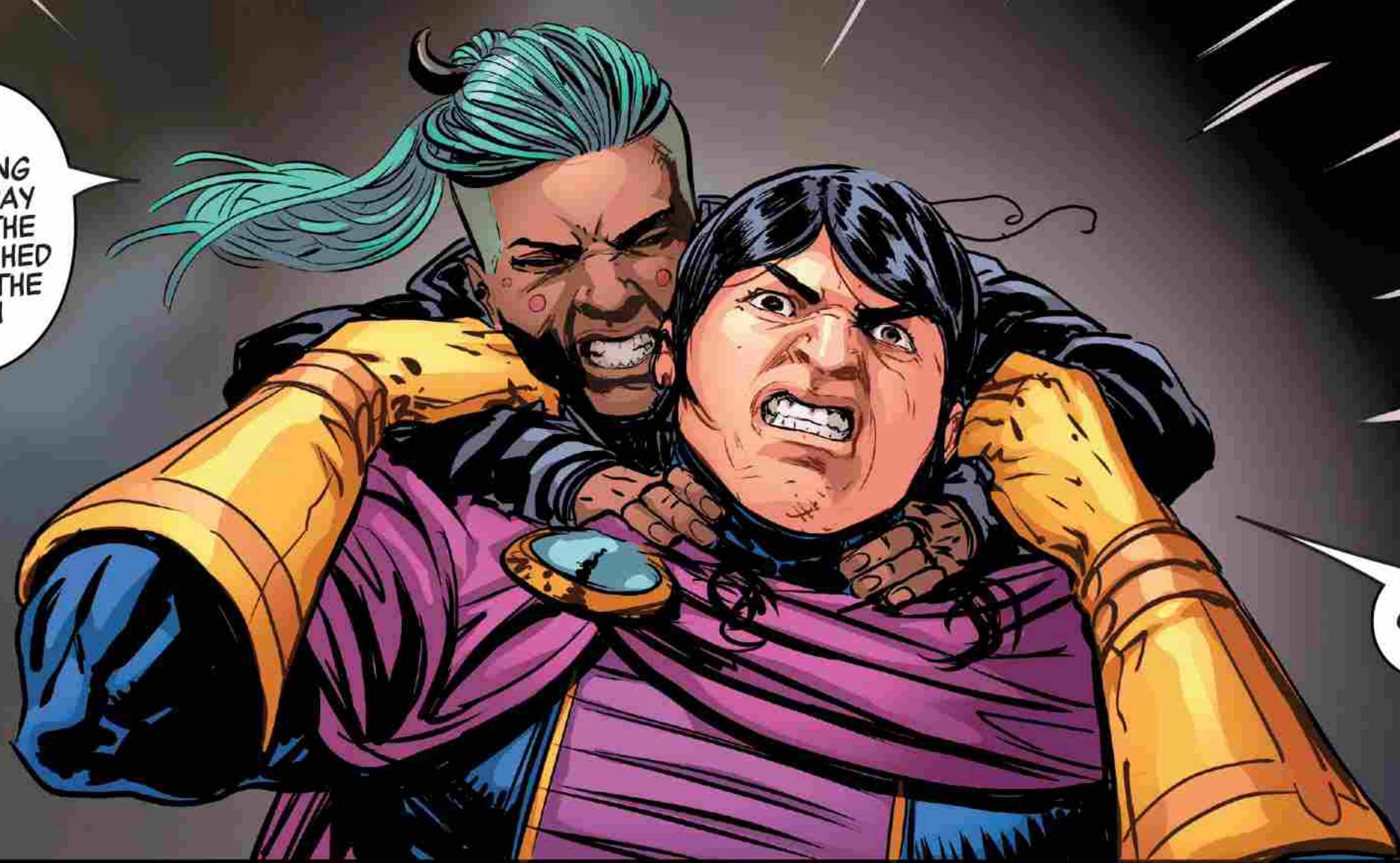


I'M MONARK
STARSTALKER...

...THE BOUNTY
HUNTER WHO
BROUGHT DOWN THE
COSMIC GHOST
RIDER.



YOU
PICKED
THE WRONG
@\$\$#% DAY
TO RUIN THE
STORAGE SHED
WITH ALL THE
BEER IN
IT!



GET
OFF! YOU
LITTLE--

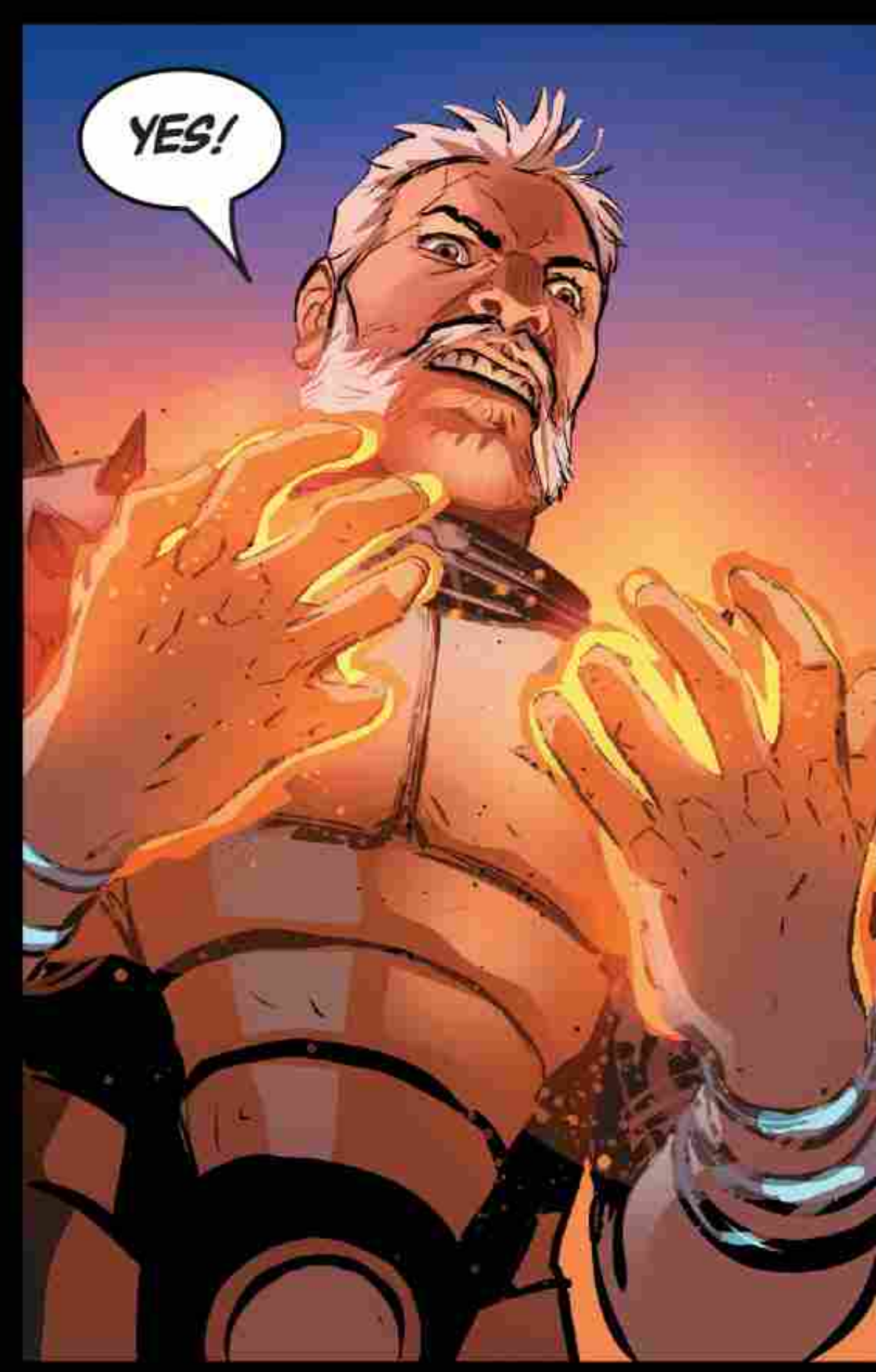


ARGH!



\$\$ε@!

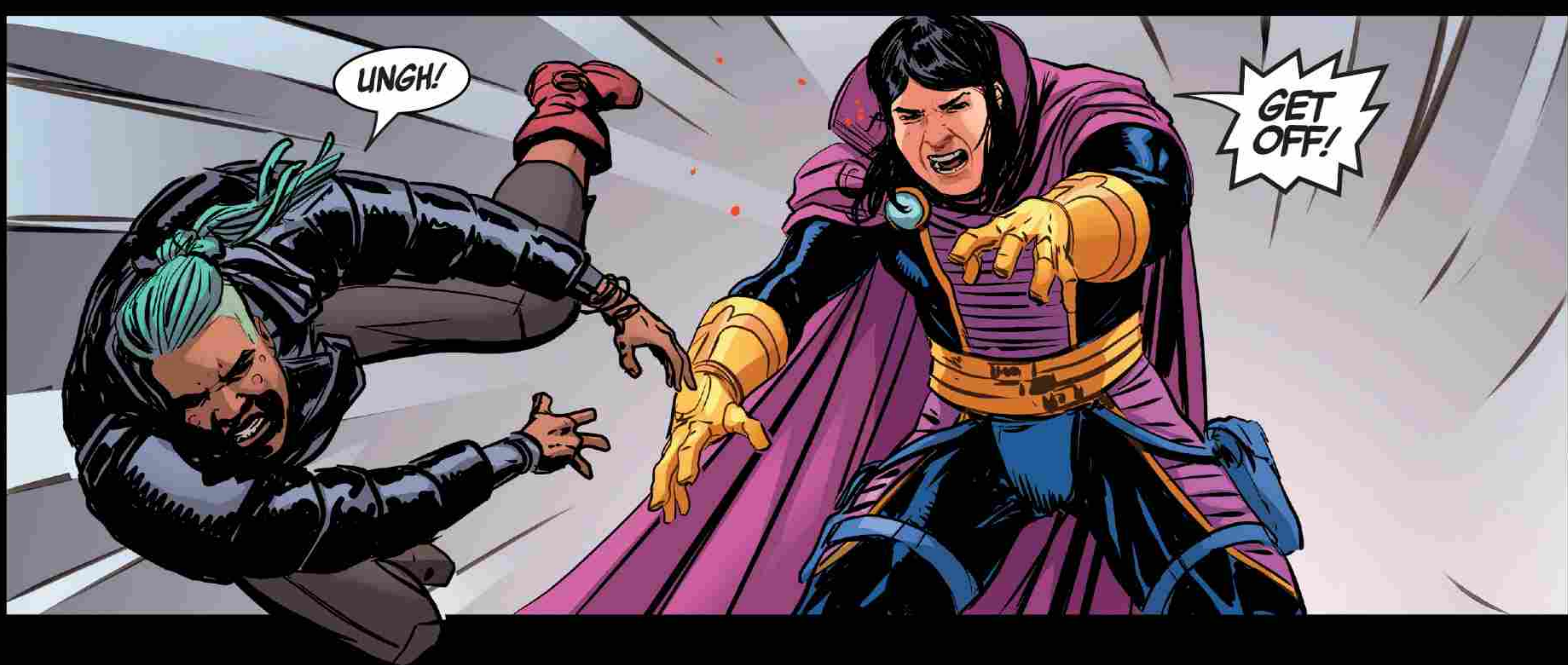
COME
ON, FIERY-
SKELETON
POWERS...
...ACTIVATE...



YES!

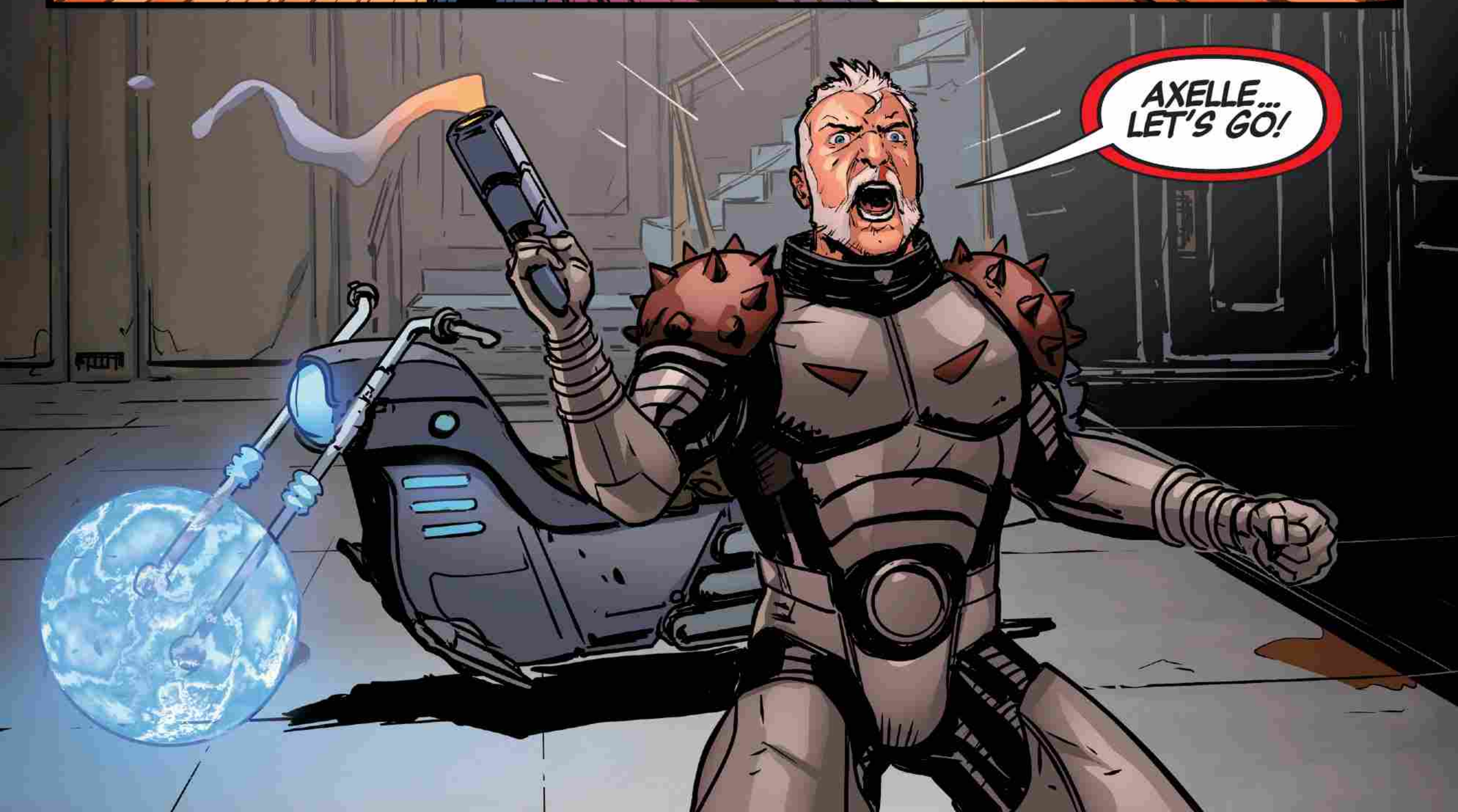


NO!



UNGH!

GET
OFF!





THE OTHER OTHER RIDER.

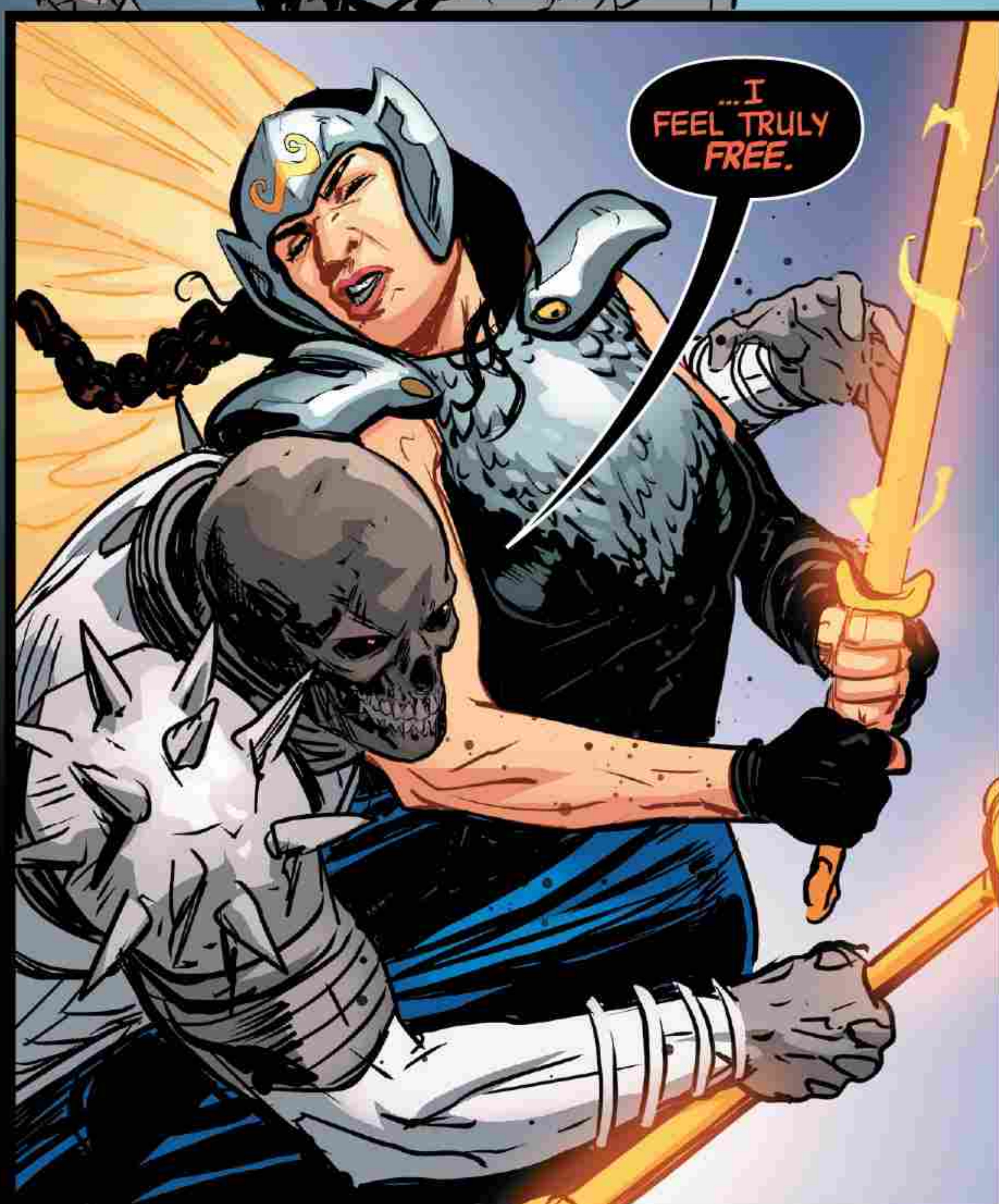
LET'S GO!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, RIDER...?



IS SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE... CONTROLLING YOU?

FOR THE FIRST TIME, VALKYRIE...



...I FEEL TRULY FREE.



WITH OR WITHOUT MY POWERS... I'M FINALLY REALIZING WHO I WAS MEANT TO BE.

YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE THE FRANK CASTLE I'VE HEARD OF.

DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT YOU...



YOU'RE GOING TO HURT YOURSELF, PRIEST.

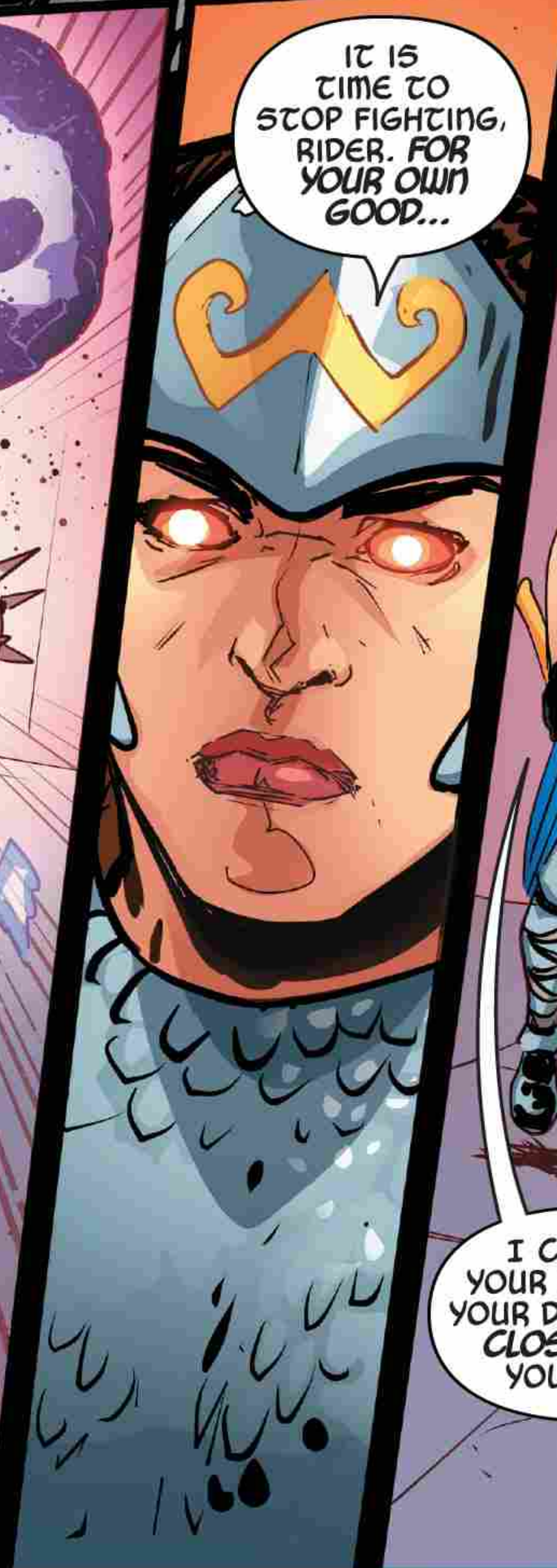
I KNOW HOW TO USE IT...



THEN I WILL HURT YOU!

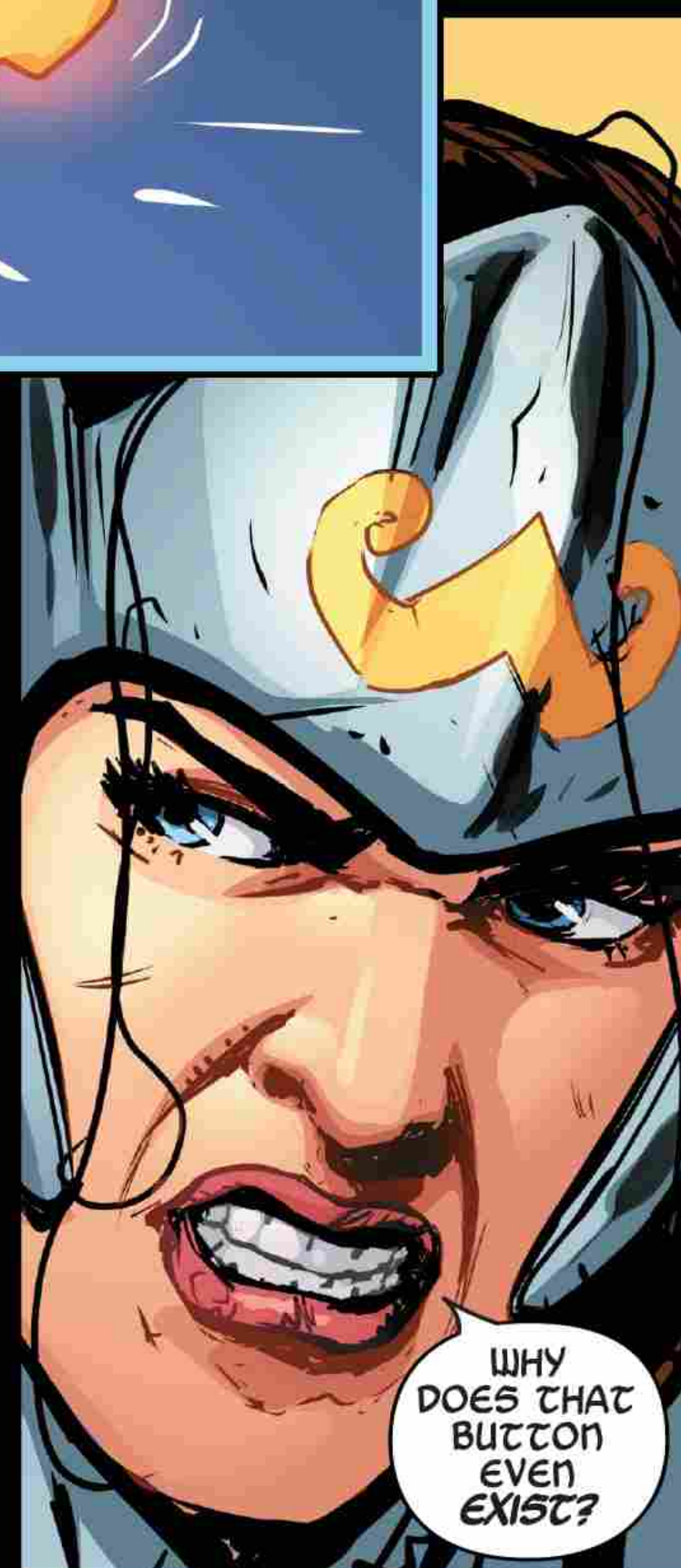


IT IS TIME TO STOP FIGHTING, RIDER. FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...



MY ARMOR...THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING...

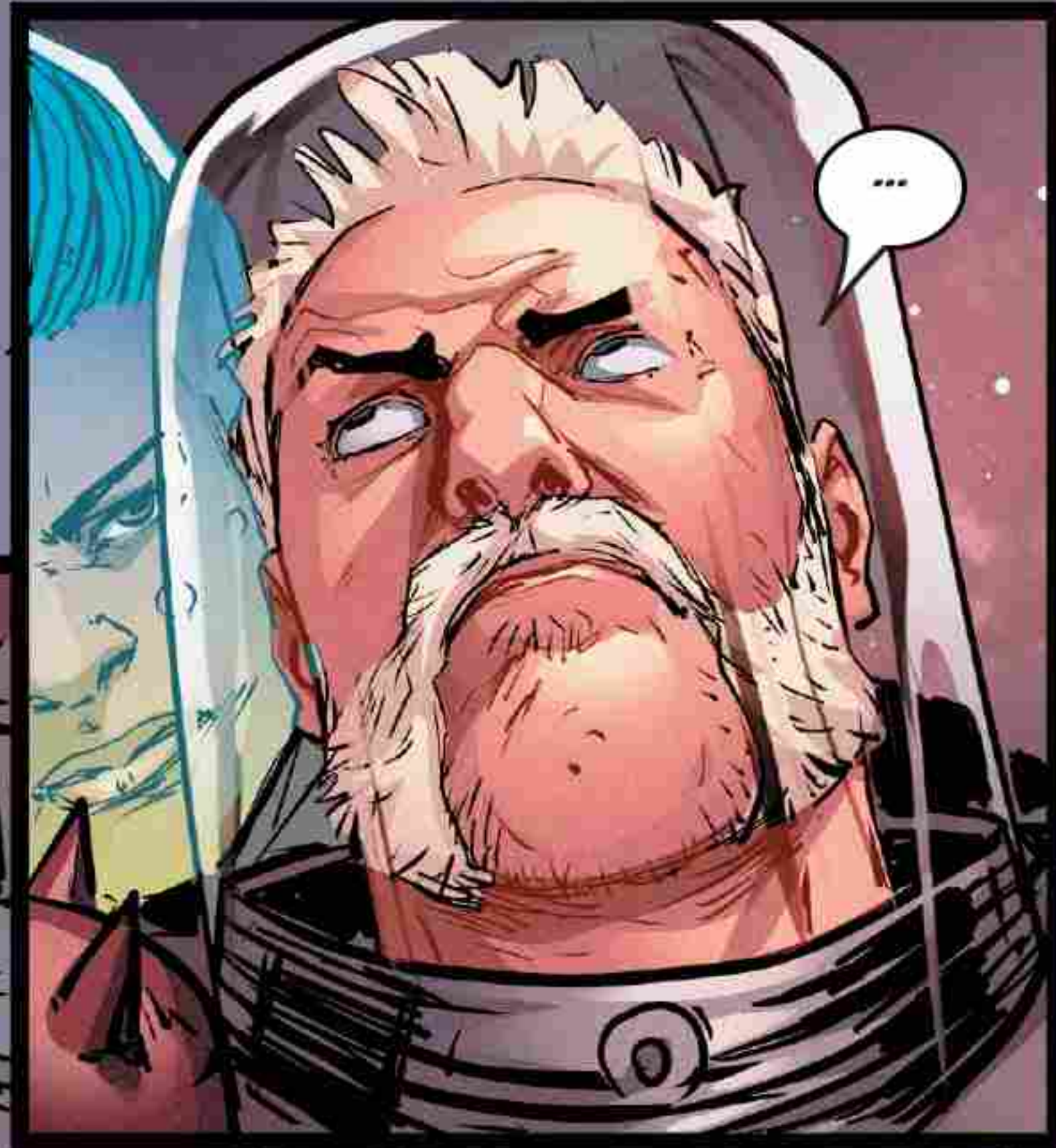
I CAN SEE YOUR FACE, AND YOUR DEATH--IT'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.





HOLD ON.

NO, I THINK I'LL JUST THROW MY HANDS UP AND **HOPE** THE FORCE DOESN'T THROW ME OFF THE BIKE...



...

I SHOULD FOLLOW THEM.

NO...



THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE RIDER'S POWERS.



THE RIDER
WIELDS THE
POWER COSMIC,
BESTOWED UPON
THE HERALDS OF
GALACTUS.

WHICH IS
TYPICALLY A
LIMITLESS WELL
OF POWER.

TYPICALLY.
BUT THE RIDER
COULDN'T SUMMON
HIS POWERS.



AND THAT
BIKE IS SOMEHOW
LINKED TO THE RIDER
BY THE POWER
COSMIC.



TEEP. AT MOST,
THE RIDER WAS ABLE TO
ACTIVATE HIS POWERS FOR
3.5 MINUTES. AS HE LEFT
THE ATMOSPHERE, THE
BIKE WAS TRAVELING AT
A TOP SPEED OF--

I DIDN'T
FINISH SCHOOL
FOR A **REASON**,
ULYSSES.



THE RIDER
WILL LIKELY BE
FORCED TO STOP
AT ONE OF THREE
NEARBY FUELING
STATIONS.

"WE CAN'T
STOP..."

...SO WHY
ARE WE
SLOWING
DOWN?

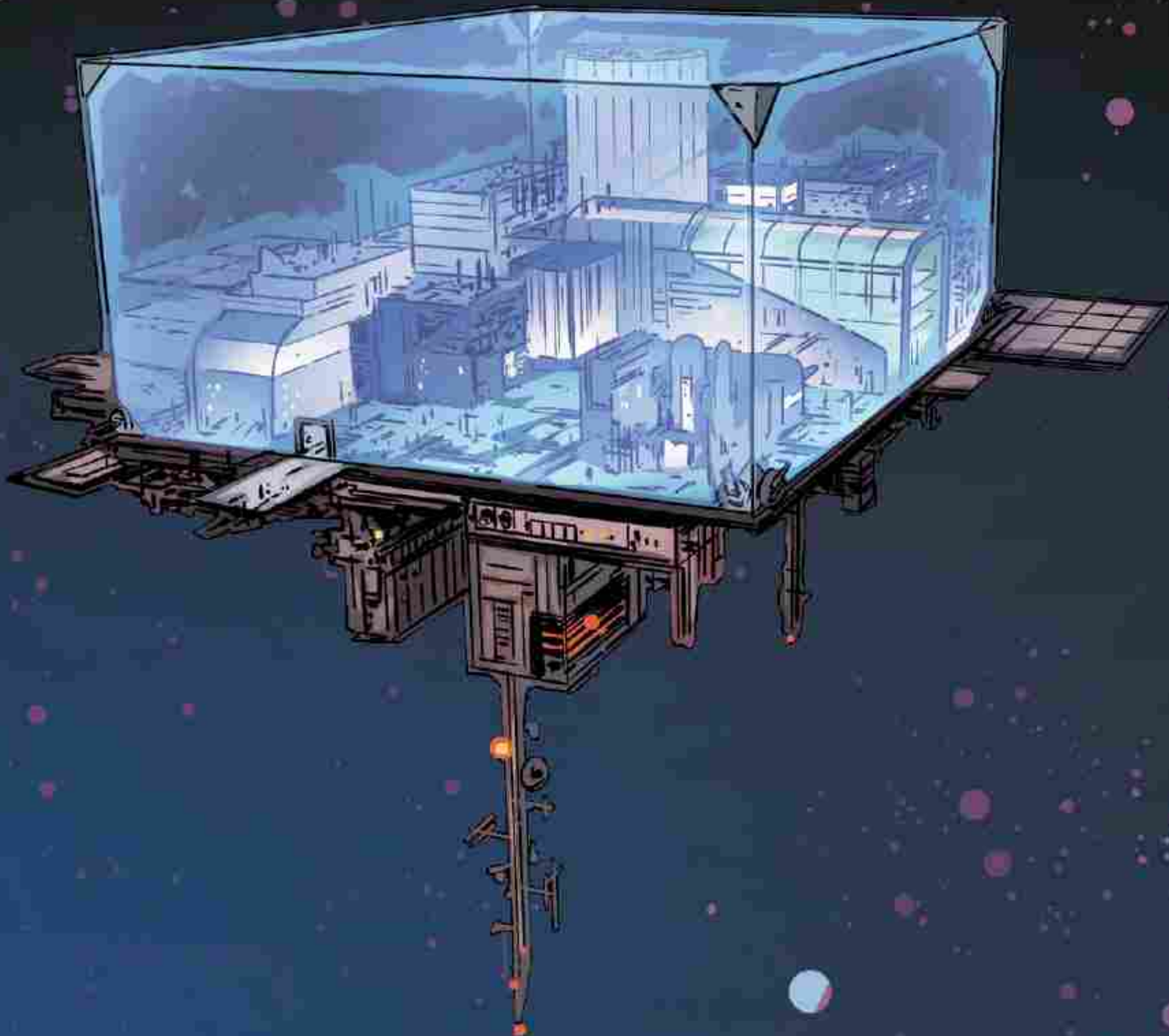
IT'S DRAINING
MY POWER TO
KEEP THIS THING
RUNNING...

NOT
HERE. CAN'T
YOU GET US
A **LITTLE**
FARTHER?

I **CAN'T**...
BUT I ALSO
DON'T THINK I'M
SUPPOSED
TO.

WHAT
THE HELL
DOES **THAT**
MEAN?

I THINK
IT MEANS THAT
I **NEED** TO BE
HERE...



"...I THINK IT MEANS
I *BELONG* ON THAT
SPACE STATION."

FUELING STATION X987.



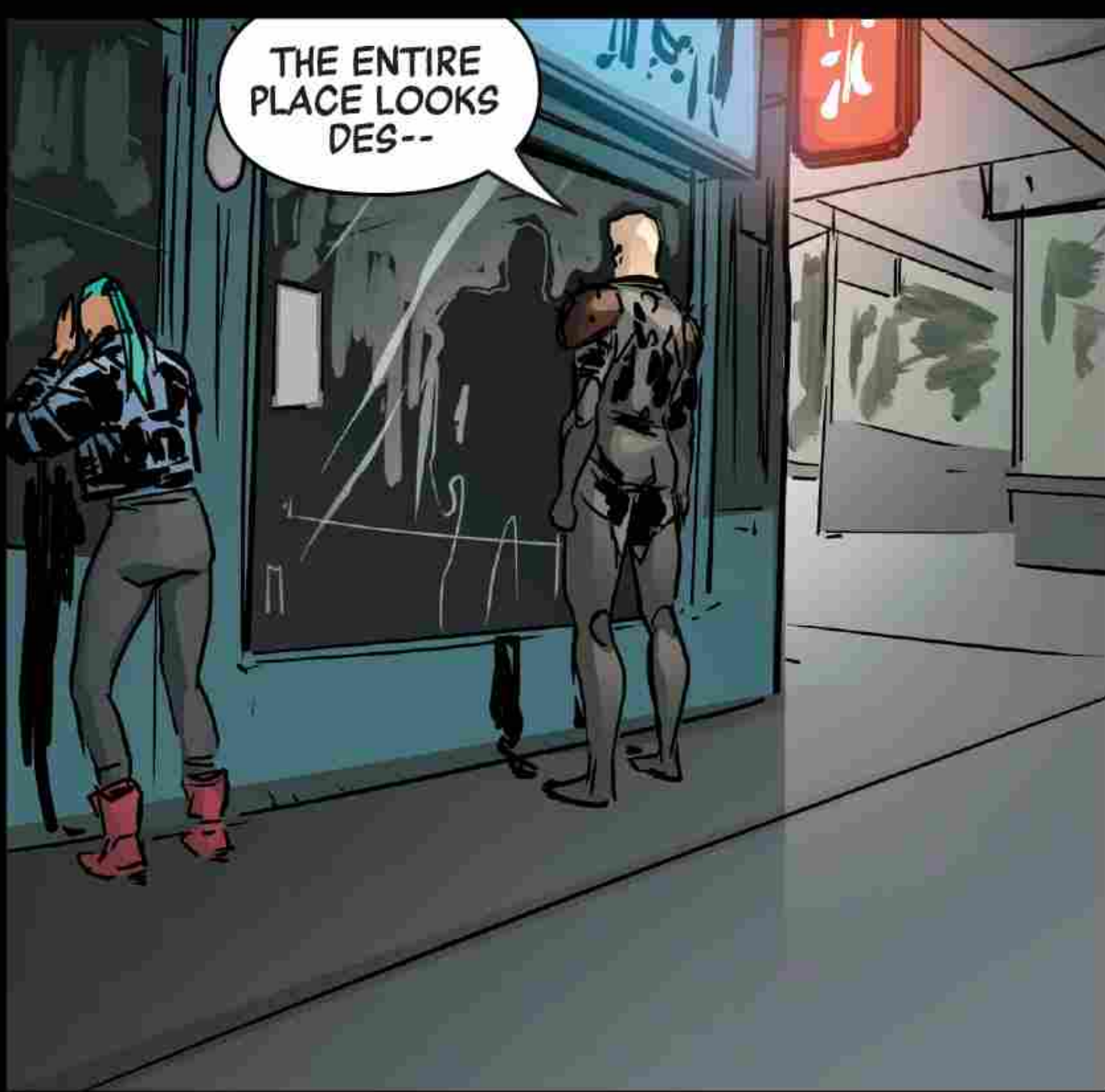
WE CAN
FIND YOU A SHIP
TO GET YOU AS FAR
AWAY FROM HERE
AS POSSIBLE.

WITHOUT ME,
THAT STARSTALKER
GUY WON'T KEEP
CHASING YOU.

HEY,
FRANK...



...WHERE IS
EVERYONE?

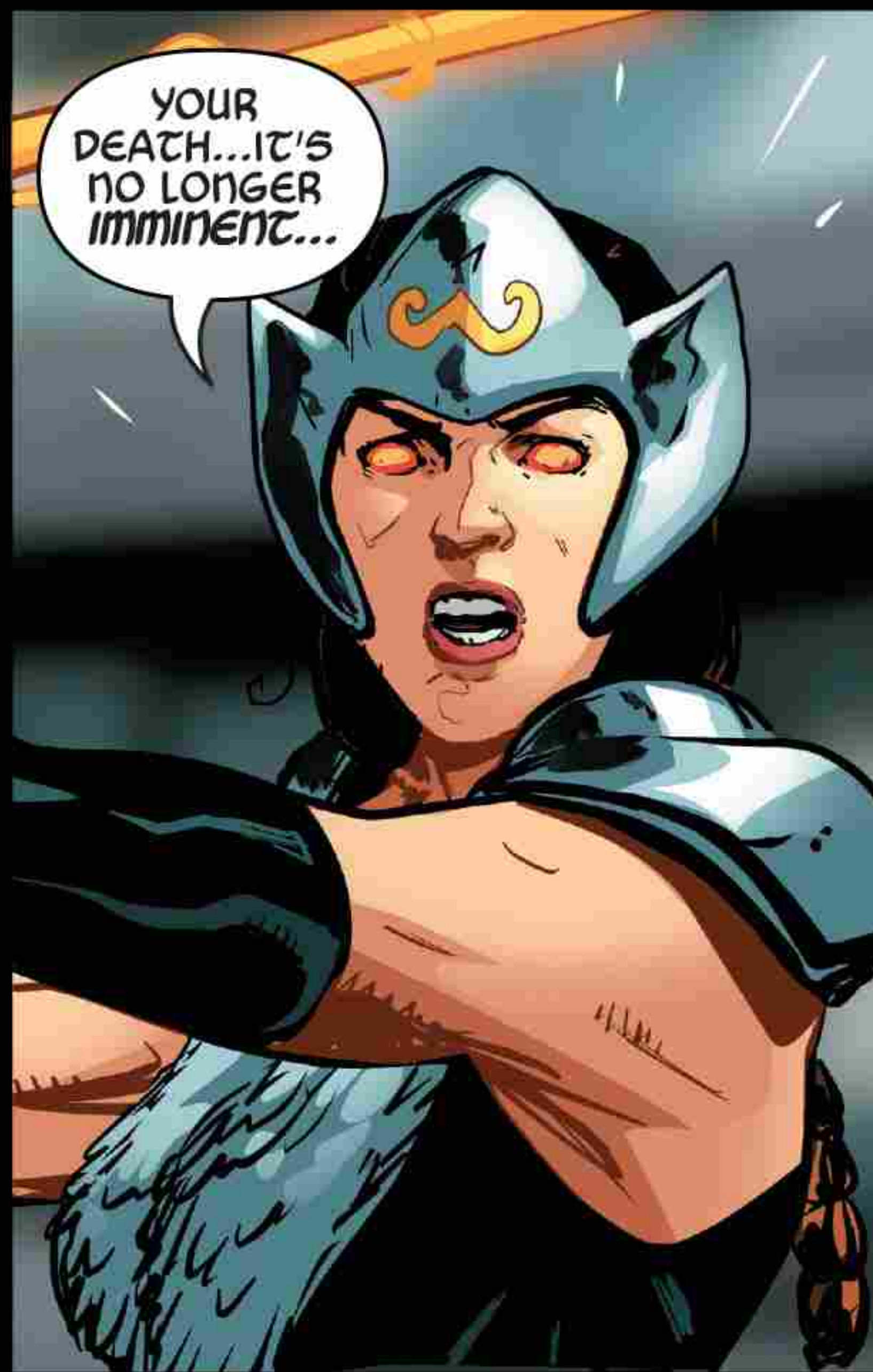


THE ENTIRE
PLACE LOOKS
DES--



OH
£@£%...







...THERE
CAN'T
BE **TWO**
OF ME.

CAN
THERE?

IT COULD
BE A CLONE.
THE UNIVERSE HAS
UNFORTUNATELY
SEEN **PLENTY**
OF THOSE
BEFORE.

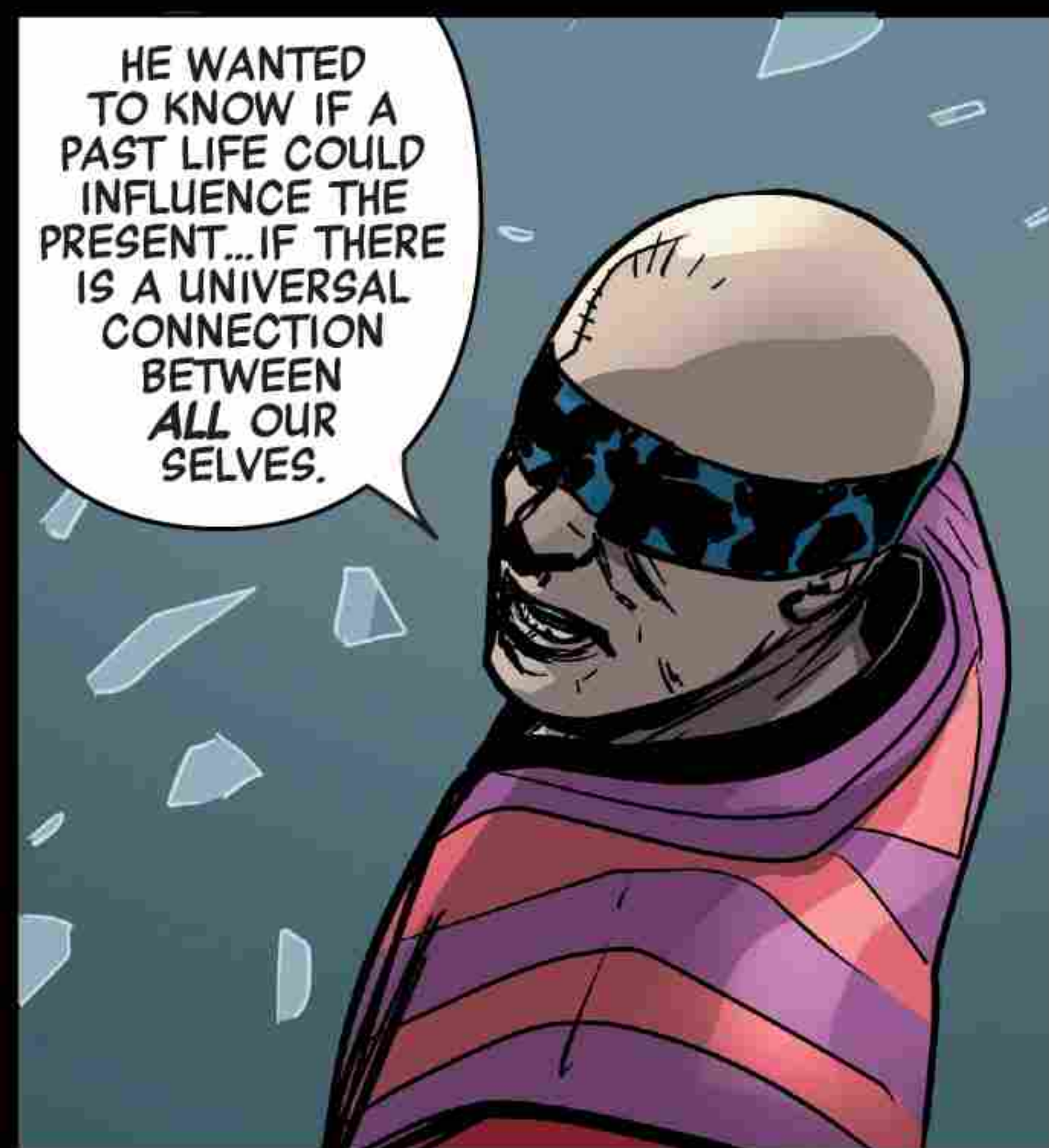
I DON'T
THINK HE WAS
A CLONE...



I TALKED
TO HIM...THE
OTHER
YOU.

BEFORE HE TRIED TO KILL
ME, HE ASKED ME ABOUT
REINCARNATION.

REINCARNATION?
WHY WOULD HE ASK YOU
ABOUT **THAT**?



HE WANTED
TO KNOW IF A
PAST LIFE COULD
INFLUENCE THE
PRESENT...IF THERE
IS A UNIVERSAL
CONNECTION
BETWEEN
ALL OUR
SELVES.



I **THINK** IT HAD
TO DO WITH THE
NIGHTMARES...OR
VISIONS.

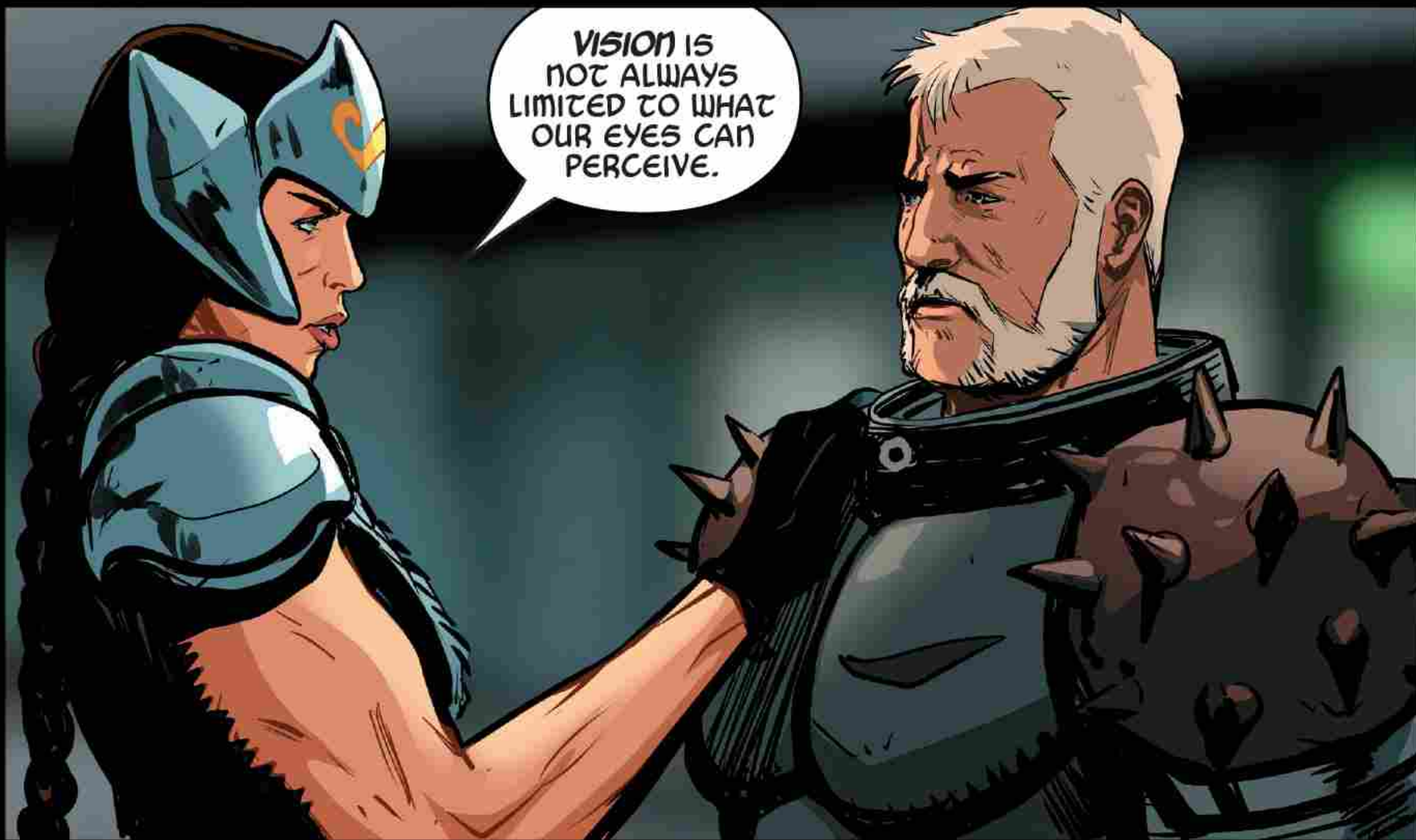
HE SAID HE
WAS SEEING A
DIFFERENT VERSION
OF HIMSELF
IN THEM.



I'VE BEEN HAVING
NIGHTMARES TOO. I
THOUGHT THEY WERE
JUST THAT...**DREAMS**.
BUT NOW...

A FEW
NIGHTS AGO, I
SAW MYSELF AS THE
RIDER, **MURDERING**
PEOPLE IN A CASINO.
SO MUCH BLOOD...
SOME **BEGGED**
FOR MERCY.

BUT I
DIDN'T
STOP.



VISION IS NOT ALWAYS LIMITED TO WHAT OUR EYES CAN PERCEIVE.



I CAN SEE THINGS THAT OTHERS CAN'T...I CAN SEE DEATH AS IT APPROACHES.

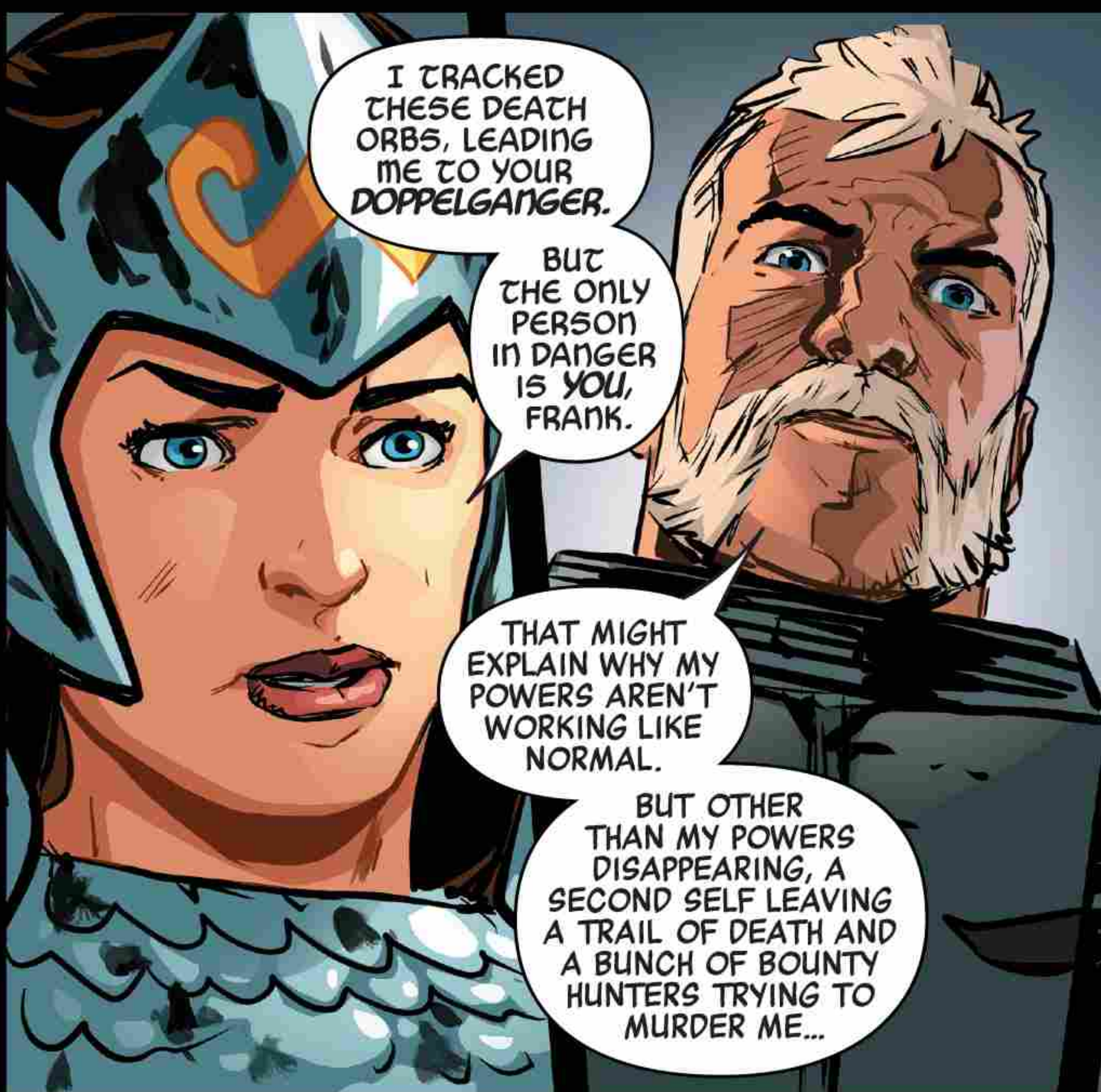


WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN *SEE* DEATH?

I CAN SEE ORBS ABOVE ALL OF YOU.

WHEN THE OTHER RIDER WAS NEAR US, THE PRIEST'S DEATH LOOMED LARGE OVER HIM, BUT NOW...WITH YOU HERE...HE'S SAFE.

THAT IS HOW I *KNOW* THAT YOU ARE NOT HIM.



I TRACKED THESE DEATH ORBS, LEADING ME TO YOUR DOPPELGANGER.

BUT THE ONLY PERSON IN DANGER IS YOU, FRANK.

THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY MY POWERS AREN'T WORKING LIKE NORMAL.

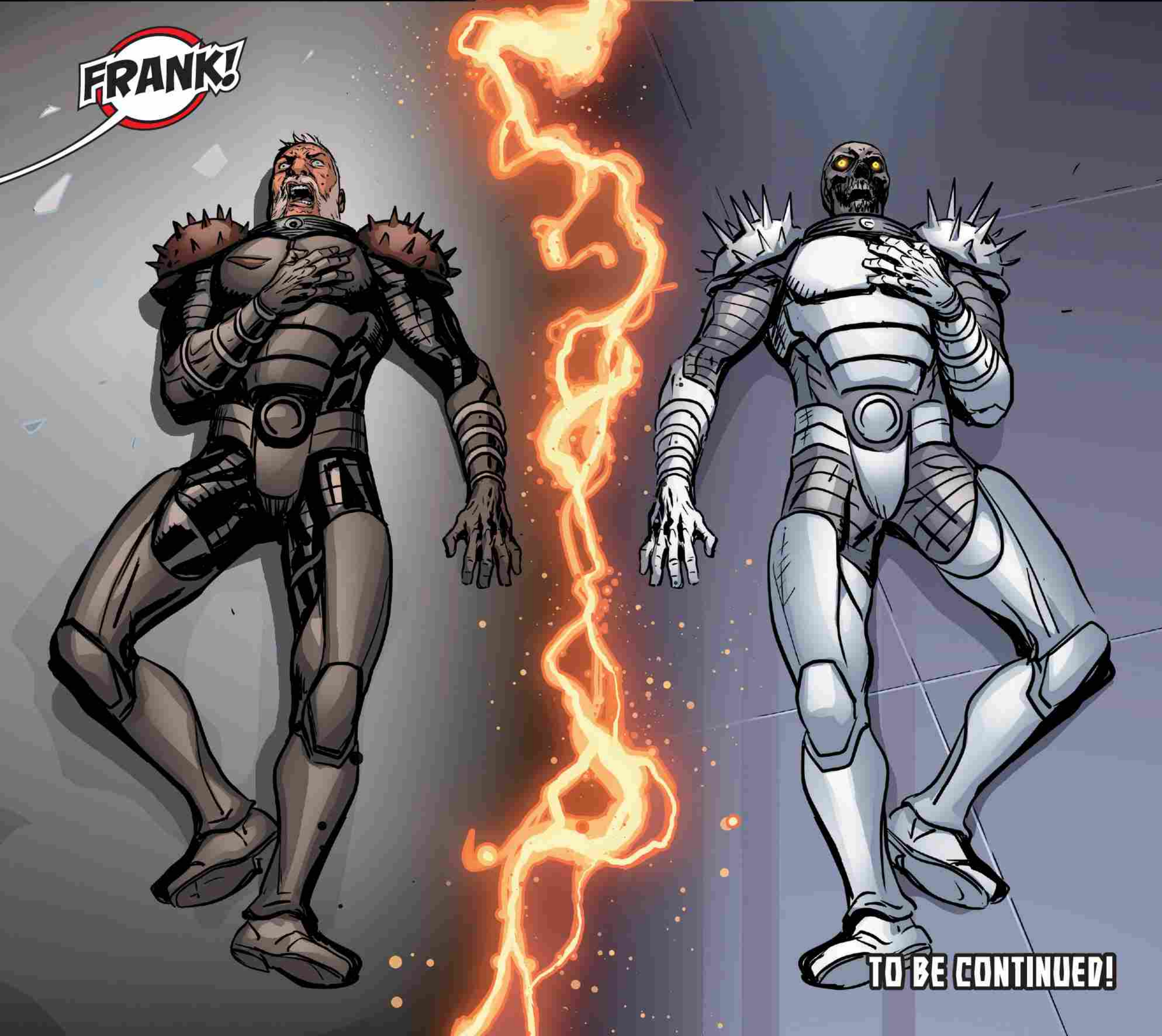
BUT OTHER THAN MY POWERS DISAPPEARING, A SECOND SELF LEAVING A TRAIL OF DEATH AND A BUNCH OF BOUNTY HUNTERS TRYING TO MURDER ME...



...I FEEL COMPLETELY--

...FINE...

FRANK... WHAT'S WRONG?



NEXT:

○○○

#4



IT'S ALL BEEN BUILDING TO THIS--A BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO DIFFERENT COSMIC GHOST RIDERS IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE! BUT WILL EITHER OF THEM SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO UNCOVER THE MYSTERY OF THEIR NEW DUAL EXISTENCE? THE REVELATIONS AND FLAMING FISTICUFFS WILL COME FAST AND FURIOUS IN THIS ISSUE!

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